

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS AND WETLAND PROFESSIONALS MEETING MINUTES

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals met on July 19, 2011, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

Nancy Barker
Douglas S. Davis
Charles E. Nelson
Angela C. Whitehead

Board members Robert Atkinson, Angie Hall and Tom Saxton were not present at the meeting.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Gordon N. Dixon, Director
Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director of Licensing and Regulation
Kathleen R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Marian H. Brooks, Board Administrator
Justin Garofalo, Board Administrator
Amy Goobic, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Peay, from the Office of the Attorney General was present.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Ms. Whitehead, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Call to Order

Ms. Nosbisch advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Mr. Nelson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Barker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Barker moved to approve the minutes from the following meeting:
- April 6, 2011, Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Public Comment Period – There were no comments made to the Board.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Nelson moved to nominate Ms. Barker as Chair. With no further nominations, Mr. Davis seconded the nomination which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead. Ms. Barker moved to nominate Mr. Nelson as Vice-Chair. With no further nominations, Mr. Davis seconded the nomination which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Davis moved to adopt the following meeting dates for 2012:

**Consideration of 2012
Meeting Dates**

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 10

10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 19

10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 19

10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 11

Ms. Barker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Ms. Nosbisch provided the with Board copies of the Soil Scientist licensure bill and the proposed regulations. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that a motion was necessary to file the NOIRA. Discussion was held on changes that would need to be made in the regulations with regards to exams, whether to use a national exam or a state exam, and whether the Board would have input on exam questions. Ms. Nosbsich stated that staff would collect information on which states have their own exam or use a national exam. Mr. Dixon recommended providing information as to how other DPOR boards manage exam issues. Mr. Courtney stated that a national exam might cause a fee increase. Mr. Nelson suggested involving the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS) in the discussion.

**Soil Scientist Licensure
Update**

Ms. Barker moved to file the NOIRA. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Discussion was held regarding adding continuing education requirements to the regulations. Ms. Nosbisch suggested reviewing other state's regulations. Mr. Courtney stated that the statute says no more than 8 contact hours per year.

The Board members were provided with the Board financial statements for information purposes. Discussion was held on having a representative from SSSA attend a board meeting to discuss the costs associated with a national exam.

**Review of Financial
Statements**

Ms. Nosbisch congratulated Ms. Whitehead on the birth of her son, June 24, 2011.

Other Business

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board of an email received from Mr. William Gangloff, North Carolina, regarding the Soil Science Society of America's (SSSA) plans to phase out the Soil Classifier certification.

The Board recessed from 10:50 a.m. until 11:10 a.m.

Recess

Discussion resumed on Mr. Gangloff's email. The Board agreed by consensus that no action needed to be taken on the letter, as the Board is not associated with the SSSA and does not have certification classifiers.

Other Business

The Board members participated in the Conflict of Interests Act training as it is required of all board members. Board members signed certificates verifying that they had completed the training course.

Conflict of Interests Act Training

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Adjournment

Angela C. Whitehead, Chair

Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary